

Appl. No. 09/940,930
Amdt. Dated December 23, 2003
Reply to Office Action of October 3, 2003

Amendment to the Claims:

This listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A disposable body fluid absorbent wearing article comprising:

a liquid-pervious topsheet;

a liquid-impervious backsheet; and

a liquid-absorbent core disposed between said ~~liquid-pervious~~ liquid-pervious topsheet and said liquid-impervious backsheet, said liquid-pervious topsheet comprising:

B2 a plurality of plastic film layer sections each having upper and lower surfaces and a thickness of from about 0.001 to about 0.05 mm;

openings defined between respective pairs of adjacent one of said plastic film layer sections; and

a first fibrous layer bonded to the lower surfaces of said plastic film layer sections and immediately underlying said openings,

said liquid-pervious topsheet having a Klemm's water absorbency lower than 10 mm,

each of said openings having a width of from about 0.05 to about 1 mm so that a total open area thereof occupies from about 3 to about 4 % of a surface area of said topsheet,

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edges of said plastic film layer sections defining said openings being partially fibrillated so as to form rising portions having a maximum height of 1.5 mm, said first fibrous layer having component fiber having a fineness of from about 0.5 to about 20 dtex and a basis weight of from about 5 to about 60 g/m²,

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said liquid-absorbent core having a second fibrous layer being closely contiguous to a lower surface of said first fibrous layer and a third fibrous layer being closely contiguous to a lower surface of said second fibrous layer, said second fibrous layer having a Klemm's water absorbency lower than 35 mm but higher than a Klemm's water absorbency of said liquid-pervious topsheet by 15 mm or more and said third fibrous layer having a Klemm's water absorbency of at least 35 mm but higher than said Klemm's water absorbency of said second fibrous layer by 15 mm or more.

Claim 2 (previously presented): The article according to Claim 1, wherein each of said openings has a width of from about 0.05 to about 1 mm and a length corresponding to at least 1.5 times said width.

Claim 3 (previously presented): The article according to Claim 1, further comprising a plurality of tubular passages that extend through said liquid-pervious topsheet from an upper surface thereof to its lower surface, said tubular passages having tube walls comprising upper and lower openings, each of said upper and lower openings having a diameter of from about 0.1 to about 5 mm.

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Claim 4 (currently amended): The article according to Claim 1, wherein said liquid-pervious topsheet comprises a plurality of depressions extending from an upper surface thereof toward the lower surface thereof, said depressions terminating within an interior of said first fibrous layer, each of said depressions having an opening having a diameter of from about 0.1 to about 5 ~~mm~~. On mm, on the upper surface of the liquid-pervious topsheet.

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Claim 5 (previously presented): The article according to Claim 1, wherein one of said second and third fibrous layers comprises a plurality of fibrous layers and has a Klemm's water absorbency progressively increasing from an uppermost layer to a lowermost layer.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The article according to Claim 1, wherein the edges of said plastic film layer sections are formed with a plurality of fibrillated portions so that said plastic film layer sections are contiguous to the portions of said first fibrous layer exposed through said openings between respective pairs of adjacent ones of said fibrillated portions.

Claim 7 (previously presented): The article according to Claim 1, wherein said second fibrous layer contains hydrophilic fibers and has a basis weight of from about 20 to about 50 g/m² and a density lower than 0.05 g/cm² but higher than the density of said first fibrous layer.

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Claim 8 (previously presented): The article according to Claim 1, wherein said third fibrous layer contains hydrophilic fibers and has a basis weight of from about 50 to about 500 g/m² and a density of from about 0.05 to about 0.30 g/cm³.

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Claims 9 (previously presented): The article according to Claim 1, wherein said third fibrous layer contains from about 5 to about 50% by weight of high absorption polymer grains.

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Claim 10 (previously presented): The article according to Claim 1, wherein said hydrophilic fiber comprises fluff pulp.